

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Book	Policy Manual
Section	0000 Bylaws
Title	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS
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Last Revised	January 27, 2023

0167.3 - **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The School Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on District matters.

To permit fair and orderly public expression, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at those public meetings of the Board during which action may be taken and publish procedures to govern such participation in Board meetings.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting shall administer the procedures of the Board for its conduct.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

- A. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business.
- B. Anyone having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board may participate during the public portion of a meeting.
- C. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.
- D. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration.
- E. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic unless all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.
- F. The presiding officer may:
 - 1. prohibit public comments which are frivolous, repetitive, or harassing;
 - 2. interrupt, warn, or terminate a person's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
 - 3. request any individual to leave the meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive of the orderly conduct of the meeting;
 - 4. request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
 - 5. waive these rules with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business.
- G. The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to twenty-one (21) minutes unless extended by a vote or acquiescence of the Board.
- H. Audio or video recordings are permitted. The person operating the recorder should contact the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting to review possible placement of the equipment, and agrees to abide by the following conditions:
 - 1. No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience.

2. No interviews are conducted during the Board meeting.

3. No commentary is made that would distract either the Board or members of the audience.

Revised 7/28/04

Revised 11/14/12

Revised 2/12/14

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Legal

I.C. 5-14-1.5 Open Door Law notice to the public and news media of regular, emergency and special meetings

I.C. 20-26-4-3 Notice of meetings to Board members